Mitzi said they were almost finished. Johnny told Butch he should feel guilty, because they would have been moved by now, if he hadn't gone to a movie.

Mitzi was shocked. So was Butch. He wasn't capable of feeling guilty....

Johnny said he had the moral insanity REAL BAD....

Butch was about to answer with his fists when Mitzi leapt up and kissed him on the mouth. She assured him, he was fine.

She turned to Johnny. It was time they left....

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Heatwave on Thing Street. Not to mention all North America. So hot Romeo only got half a load. There wasn't enough room, anyway. Nobody was buying in this heat. Not the heavy shit, the nine-piece walnut dining-room shit, etc.

Never again....

*****

Only Trixie came, nattering about her table and chairs.

The last French Provincial Zsa Zsa Nine-Piece Euro-Trash Special....

She hadn't agreed on the price yet, but it was HERS....

She asked about a chandelier and matching sconces, about a large green Empire-style settee. She knew the price; she wanted a deal....

Johnny asked her if she was asking or telling him.

You're something else. So what did he get?

Johnny said, not much; it was hot....

They must at least have unloaded the van....

Asking, or telling?

You're something else. The way you cover for each other.

A big foot-baller puked and croaked during the commercials.... A hundred degrees, in the shade.... Blackouts in California.... Bill Gates' computers crashed.... His yacht didn't sink, it ran aground, in the Potomac.... Arabs visited the Titanic, on camels.... Atlantis, in the Sub-Sahara.... The U.S.A. was boiling....

The $.25 Woman got heat stroke, and had to refund the money....

Her books weren't selling.

All Trixie could think about was the Zsa Zsa Special....

*****

Jack Was Every Inch a (One-Eyed) Sailor chained his hot velocipede to a drum-table, before collapsing in an empire-style armchair. He selected one of the vintage paper-backs that Johnny had piled outside the store, and began to read himself to sleep.

A few minutes later he stumbled into the store and offered Johnny a quarter for the book. Maybe he was walking in his sleep....

Johnny said it cost three dollars.